Mr. Christopher Sharrett
Theater Department
Villanova University
Villanova, Pa. 19085

3/22/77

Dear Mr. Sharrett,

Your letter of the 17th boils down to I yearn. I need a blanket like Linus. I cling to what I want to believe. I hate to consider what I do not want to believe.

There really is nothing you say about Srpague and the committee that is not wishful thinking. In this you have lost your critical faculties. Sprague has brought forth a report, the mountain of the laboring Perry mason having delivered a mouse. It is tangibel. It is specific. It begins with presumptions of guilt withput any investigation of the claim to it. As recently as yesterday his No. 2 man on Ing asked me for a court record they should have obtained in the six months of their life and have not. Even when five months ago I told them where to get it. Now if you want to regard this sample as indicative of serious intentions, minimum competence or common every-day honesty, you have that flat-world sight.

In common with many your institution has opened its door to every nut, self-seeker and other assassination ripoff artist. It students and some of its faculty are, in common with others, high on the heady stuff those with ordinary critical faculties would not take a second look at.

I hope you can realize that if I continued correspondence like this I'd spend my time doing nothing else - and that you really have not responded to fact except with untenable theory. Wishfully. I think, no offense intended, immaturely.

Life is real. People are bastards. Politicians are sometimes crooks. I can't change this for you. I can't give you the reassurance your letter seeks and still be honest. If your taste runs to the unreal I cannot satisfy your taste and would not if I could.

You might want to reexamine the thinking that has you unconcerned about how the committee does its work.

I hope you can understand that it is impossible to respond to the kinds of questions you asked about fact and still have time for anything else. This is why I write and publish books and do appear at colleges and universities when asked. If the institutions opt the commercializers and the self-promoters, as most do, they spread disinformation. The effect of this is visible in your statement for which I'd like to know the basis: "According to Jim Lesar, Ray has actually identified Raoul as Frenchy of Dealey Plaza fame..." Itf you had set yourself to be more totally incorrect you could not have been. At the same time I am without doubt that you did not make this up. "...is Ray jerking us around or what?" There is jerking around, but not by Ray. I guess the or what consists in the total lack of discrimination in speakers for presentations and matter for reading.

Lou Gordon pulled some dirty tricks on the air, as you should have observed. This included breaking his work and violating confidence. I am not now prepared to go farthur than I did then when I had no real choice with the cameras rolling.

Sincerely,